

## **HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of Arab States Research and Education Network, Jordan**

HE Talal Abu- Ghazaleh extended a special tribute and deep appreciation for the important and timely high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, which is considered as a fascinating support to the panArab research and education activities, e-infrastructure networking and Quality of Education. He also thanked His Excellency Rupert JOY, Head of Delegation of the EU to Morocco for taking the time to join the conference. This is seen as a signal of great support to the efforts in developing research networking for the whole Arab region. He also expressed his appreciation His Excellency Dr. Sabri Saidam, Palestinian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, as well as His Excellency Yasser Abdel Moneim, Director of Education and Scientific Research, The League of Arab States - our partners in developing the Arab network for research and quality of education. HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh also expressed his tribute and appreciation to the conferences partners and members, university presidents, directors, and VIP delegates from across the region and the world.

HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his appreciation to the conference hosts Le Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (CNRST), with the great support of Dr. Driss Abutajdine, the Director and his team, for their great hospitality and support. And expressed his tribute and appreciation to the sponsors for their generous support which made the event even possible and highly appreciate. He also welcomed the delegation of the European Commission and European partners from EUMEDCONNECT3, Africa Connect 2, and MAGIC with great appreciation for their technical and financial support since 2004 and beyond, as well as the delegation of the Arab countries – Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and the UAE, as our partners in developing the Arab research and education network, and quality of education, and finally welcoming the delegation of the US Internet2, and representatives of regional research and education network from Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and Canada, with them, ASREN will continue to work to develop coordination and interoperations towards a global network for research and education.

His Excellency asserted the growing interests of Arab NRENs for joining ASREN as shareholders with Lebanon becoming an active partner in research and education networking, in addition to the NRENs in Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Somalia, and Iraq research and education networks. He continued, ASREN will continue to serve the Arab region in developing best practice NREN model and provide pan-Arab e-Infrastructure connectivity at the regional level. He also announced the launch of ASREN's operational point of exchange in London (Lonon PoP). This point of exchange is now connected to the European GEANT network and to the rest of the world's research and education network. ASREN's Pop links a number of Arab NRENs for direct peering for research and education, now in the pursuit of AfricaConnect2, which we announce today with 26.6 Million Euro funds from the European Commission to transform African science and education.

He Added that Africa Connect 2 will create the first Pan-African Research and Education infrastructure coordinated by the African networking organizations: Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN), and UbuntuNet Alliance, in partnership with the European counterpart GÉANT. The objective is to establish a largely EU co-funded project to provide high-speed Internet to African research and education. In addition to that, he

announced the establishment of the Lebanese international research and education link via the American University of Beirut to the European GEANT via ASREN PoP, building on the success of Jordan's 155 Mega bits per second STM1 link funded by TAGOrg. Which will help to introduce tools for developing collaboration and cooperation between scientists, researchers and students and to enhance the quality of education and research. Also he announced the development of inter-operational platforms and success deployment of Eduroam in more than 10 countries in the Arab region.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh asserted that Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization will continue to support research and education in an effort to assist in the development of a broader and more inclusive information society in the Arab world. And asserted that he supports developing quality of education through the Arab Organization for Quality Assurance in Education - AROQA. This year's AROQA's 7th Annual conference focuses on quality standards and accreditation in education. In this regards, he announced that the quality standards and accreditation of schools are now being implemented in a number of schools in Jordan, as well as the announcement of releasing the 3rd issue of the first Arab Journal of Quality in Education, a specialized peer reviewed and indexed Journal.

In closing, Dr. Abu- Ghazaleh concluded his speech by saying "This event is an opportunity to consolidate our efforts together towards developing a better network infrastructure and a better quality education for a prosperous future of our young people".